

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 14825 291437Z
ACTION INR-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6101
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CONFIDENTIAL CARACAS 14825

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, SA, UK, VE
SUBJECT: BIO DATA ON NEW SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO
GREAT BRITAIN FAISAL AL-HUJAILAN

REF: JIDDA 8317

1. EMBASSY CONFIRMS INFORMATION REFTEL CONCERNING
AMBASSADOR AL-HUJAILAN'S SERVICE IN CARACAS. WE CAN ADD
THAT AL-HUJAILAN WAS NOT PARTICULARLY HAPPY IN CARACAS AND
EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY IN RELATING TO THE THEN MINES AND
HYDROCARBONS MINISTER, HUGO PEREZ LA SALVIA. FROM 1971 ON
AL-HUJAILAN WAS HOPING TO BE RE-ASSIGNED, BUT THIS DID NOT
OCCUR UNTIL FEBRUARY 1975. AL-HUJAILAN WAS SAID TO
BE OUT OF FAVOR WITH THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTRY IN 1973,
WHICH MAY ACCOUNT FOR THE MINISTRY'S SLOWNESS IN RE-ASSIGNING
HIM. THE DECORATION GIVEN AL-HUJAILAN BY PRESIDENT PEREZ IS
CUSTOMARY FOR DEPARTING AMBASSADORS WITH LONG SERVICE
IN VENEZUELA.

2. COMMENT. GIVEN AMBASSADOR AL-HUJAILAN'S APPOINTMENT
TO THE COURT OF ST. JAMES, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT HIS STANDING
WITH THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY
SINCE 1973. HE WAS REGARDED AS AN ABLE DIPLOMAT IN CARACAS
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PAGE 02 CARACA 14825 291437Z

IN SPITE OF THE VICISSITUDES OF SAUDI-VENEZUELAN RELATIONS.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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